

Progress Energy Grant Creates Public School Leadership Institute

Progress Energy and the Public School Forum of North Carolina Collaborate to Support Education Pioneers in Central and Eastern North Carolina

RALEIGH, N.C. (Dec. 13, 2001) – Progress Energy Chairman and CEO William Cavanaugh and North Carolina Governor Mike Easley today announced the creation of the Progress Energy Leadership Institute. Supported by a \$500,000 grant from the Progress Energy Foundation, the Leadership Institute will work with the Public School Forum of North Carolina to provide school leaders with the skills and knowledge to lead high performing schools and boost student achievement.

“North Carolina is fortunate to have dedicated and committed educators like those you see here today,” said Easley. “Each of the educators and administrators participating in the Progress Energy Leadership Institute will impact thousands of children throughout their careers. I commend Progress Energy for making this commitment to education. With the continued support of public and private partnerships like this one – North Carolina will graduate more students who will have the tools and the knowledge to compete in a 21st century economy.”

Institute participants will be exposed to the best practices in education and the private sector during the two-year program. Topics covered will include handling multiple external customers, strategic use of school finances and employee training. In addition to the grant, the Progress Energy Leadership Institute will utilize company facilities such as the state-of-the-art Customer Service Center and the Leadership Development Center, both in Raleigh. Progress Energy’s internal training staff will also assist the Leadership Institute in delivering its curriculum.

“This Progress Energy grant is a strategic investment in the future of our schools and the region we serve,” said Cavanaugh. “We are excited about working with the Public School Forum of North Carolina to, among other things, give school administrators the benefit of lessons learned by private sector leaders in areas like customer service and employee training.”

Institute participants were selected based on their solid leadership track records, their potential to make leadership contributions in their communities and their deep commitment to North Carolina’s children. The forty-five participants in the inaugural program are from school systems in Brunswick, Cumberland, Granville, Halifax, Hoke, Lee, Pamlico and Scotland Counties and the Nash-Rocky Mount Schools (see attached list of participants). Many of these counties face severe teacher shortages, high turn over rates and significant challenges to bettering student performance. The Progress Energy Leadership Institute is designed to help the school administrators become leaders in their communities and help create linkages between public education and economic competitiveness.